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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The Air Defense System in the Soviet Union

1. Taking into account the experiences in WW II the Soviet Government suggested to the High Command of the Armed Forces that a new system and novel tactics for the PVO system in the Soviet Union be made. This system is to guarantee, to the greatest possible degree under modern war conditions, the security of the main centers of the war industry in the interior of the Soviet Union.
2. In compliance with this the Central Headquarters of the Soviet Air Forces, in 1947, drew up a plan for the complete reorganization of the air defense system. This plan was checked and approved by the Military Division of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevist) and incorporated in the framework of the military preparations of the Soviet Union. Work to put this system into effect was begun in late 1947 and is to be completed in 1951.
3. The new plan envisages the following:
 - a. The organization of several strong air defense zones operative in all directions from which enemy air attacks may be launched.
 - b. The organization of air and atomic defense of all important cities which presumably will be targets of enemy attacks.
 - c. The organization of an effective AA defense for military and industrial objects in the interior of the Soviet Union.

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4. The new air defense system and the plan of all defense measures either carried through or in the stage of organization are considered top secret. Details and even the existence of such a plan are known only to a very limited group of persons.
5. To safeguard the complete secrecy of the plan its individual measures will be carried through without any evident system. They are being taken as individual steps within the general framework of military preparations.
6. The construction of an extensive net of permanent and improvised airfields is under way in the various air defense zones.
7. The central Headquarters of the Soviet Air Defense, assigned to the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, has charge of the organization of the air defense system and all the practical measures required for putting it into effect.
8. In peacetime the main headquarters of the PVO is in Moscow but will be transferred to the area of Kazan in time of war.

The Soviet Air Defense Zones

9. The organization of strong air defense zones is reported for the northern area of the Far East, for Central Asia and the European part of the Soviet Union. No information is available on the first two mentioned zones but it has been possible to gather material on the air defense zone in European USSR. This information illustrates the enormous scale on which the Soviet Union is planning its air defense system.
10. The air defense of European USSR is comprised of the following:
 - a. The advanced line of the PVO
 - b. The main line of the PVO protecting the rearward areas
 - c. A special line of the PVO designed to protect the Ural district.

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The Advance Line of the PVO

11. The advance line of the western sector of the PVO begins in the area of Murmansk, runs south to Lake Ladoga and then follows the shore line of the Baltic Sea as far as Koenigsberg (Kaliningrad); there it turns to the SS-E and crosses East Poland and Rumania and ends somewhere on the coast of the Black Sea, presumably in the area of Constanta. This advance line of the PVO has a branch running through Soviet territory. This inner branch, beginning near Leningrad, ends in the area of Odessa.
12. The advance line of the PVO is nearly 5,000 km long. In the entire area of this line are 62 large permanent airfields in addition to almost 100 auxiliary airfields and landing strips which in the event of war can be occupied by fighters.
13. The permanent airfields are already occupied by cadre fighter units whose sole mission is to ward off enemy air attacks and prevent the penetration of enemy aircraft into the interior of the Soviet Union.
14. The organization of the advance line of the PVO of the western sector was considered completed in the summer of 1948 although at that time the construction of auxiliary airfields and landing strips with the help of the local population was still under way on the inner branch. The advance line of the PVO of the western sector is subdivided into six independent sectors each of which is under the command of a special headquarters.
15. The northern section of the advance line of the PVO runs from Murmansk to Novaya Ladoga on the southeastern shore of Lake Ladoga. The headquarters is in the town of Belomorsk (Soroka).
16. This line is divided into two operational sectors:
 - a. Northern sector with operations headquarters in Murmansk and Kandalaksha.
 - b. Southern sector with operations headquarters in Petrozavodsk and Novaya Ladoga.

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17. The northern section of the advance line of the PVO is comprised of 23 main and auxiliary airfields. The following large airfields, which are already occupied by fighter units, are known:
 - a. Murmashi, Motovka, airfields in the area of Murmansk.
 - b. Airfields in the area of Kandalaksha.
 - c. Airfields in the area of Leukhi, address: Kirov Railroad Line, Leukhi, Post Box No 7.
 - d. Belomorsk
 - e. Olonets, on the northeastern shore of Lake Ladoga.
 - f. Two airfields in the area of Petrozavodsk.
 - g. Novaya Ladoga.
18. The Baltic Section of the advance line of the PVO runs along the shore line of the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea from Leningrad to Kaliningrad. Its headquarters is in Riga.

This section is subdivided into three operational sectors:

 - a. Tallinn sector with operations headquarters in Tallinn.
 - b. Riga sector with operations headquarters in Riga, together with the headquarters of the PVO.
 - c. Kaliningrad sector with operations headquarters in Kaliningrad.
19. Some airfields on the islands of Dagoe and Oesel and the fighter units stationed there are also assigned to the Baltic section of the advance line of the PVO.
20. The western section of the advance line of the PVO runs through East Poland. This section is also subdivided into several sectors but no information is available on them.
21. The southwestern section of the advance line of the PVO runs through Rumania. No information is available on this section.

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22. The inner branch of the advance line of the PVO extends from Leningrad to Odessa. Its headquarters is in Vitebsk, presumably in the building of the operations headquarters in charge of the western sector of the PVO.
23. This inner branch is subdivided into the three following operational sectors:
 - a. Northern sector with operations headquarters in Dno.
 - b. Central sector, operations headquarters unknown.
 - c. Southern sector with operations headquarters in Belaya Tserkov.
24. Some permanent and many auxiliary airfields were under construction in 1948 in the area of the inner branch of the advance line of the PVO. Some dozens of auxiliary airfields and landing strips were built with the help of the local population on the instigation of Komsomol and DOSAV groups. The procedure for this was: The plan for the advance line of the PVO for example envisaged the construction of an auxiliary airfield near the village of Kholmno. The operations headquarters of the western section of the PVO thereupon ordered the pertinent military kommandatura to construct the airfield with the help of the local population.
25. The kommandatura concerned then contacts the district or raion committees of the Communist Party and the Komsomol as well as the local DOSAV organization asking them to resolve the construction of an auxiliary airfield near Kholmno. The party and Komsomol committees and the DOSAV send their representatives to the village of Kholmno. These representatives decide, in closed party and Komsomol rallies, that it is necessary to build an airfield with the help of the local population in the interest of the security of the Soviet Union.
26. After that, the resolution taken by the Communist Party and Komsomol locals is discussed at a general meeting of the kolkhoz, or several kolkhozes if the village is comprised of several of them, and the resolution is then definitely

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approved. Thereupon, the village Soviet officially sends this resolution to the raion authorities asking them to furnish the required technical assistance. The operations headquarters of the PVO sends its specialists to the village concerned to supervise the construction work.

2. After the military specialists have staked out the take-off strips and landing fields they direct the kolkhozes where to construct their farm buildings with a view to their eventual utilization as airfield buildings.

28. The southwestern section of the PVO line runs along the coast of the Black Sea from Odessa to Batumi. Its headquarters is presumably in Taman. It is known that this section is assigned to the operations headquarters of the advance line of the PVO; details, however, are not known.

Headquarters of the Advance Line of the PVO

29. The operations headquarters of the western sector of the PVO is in Vitebsk. In the event of war it is planned to transfer it to the neighborhood of this town. Details on the organizational setup of this headquarters are not available but it is known that it has purely tactical functions and that its work is not encumbered by the attachment of administrative and supply organs.
30. The main divisions of the PVO headquarters are:
 - a. Operations Division
 - b. Air Raid Warning and Reporting Division (VNOS). It has at its disposal a powerful radio station and is connected with all outposts of the VNOS service.
 - c. Construction Division. It plans and supervises the construction of new airfields as well as the improvement of old airfields in the area of the advance line of the PVO.
 - d. Inspection Division.
 - e. Cadre Division. It sees that the required air cadres are available at all times, and assigns the command personnel to the various operations headquarters of the advance line of the PVO in accordance with the valid table of organization.

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31. In peacetime the PVO headquarters does not interfere with the affairs of the air units stationed at airfields of the advance line of the PVO. In the event of war the Operations Division of the PVO headquarters assumes command over all these air units and organizes the defense against enemy air attacks.
32. The permanent VNOS outposts which are stationed along the borders of the Soviet Union and the boundaries of the Soviet spheres of influence and zones of occupation are assigned to the VNOS Division of the PVO headquarters. Each outpost has from 10 to 15 men under the command of an officer. The outposts are provided with all the required equipment and some of them are even equipped with radar sets. The outposts are also equipped with radio sets for radio communication with the headquarters. Their mission is to constantly observe their assigned air space and report all sighted aircraft to the headquarters. Source said that he had heard that such an air-raid warning post disguised as a civilian agency was on Spitsbergen in Garmann City on the premises of the Soviet coal concession. Other such posts are in the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria.

The Main Line of the PVO Protecting the Rear Areas of the Soviet Union

33. This line, beginning in the area of Arkhangelsk and running via Gorki and Stalingrad, ends in the area of Astrakhan.
34. This main line does not differ in its functions from the advance line of the PVO. It consists of a dense net of permanent and auxiliary airfields occupied by fighter units charged with fighting those enemy aircraft which were not destroyed in the PVO advance line. This main line was only in the organizational stage in the second half of 1948. Fighter units were stationed only on some old airfields of this line.
35. The main line of the PVO is subdivided into the following seven sectors:
 - a. Northern sector with operations headquarters in Arkhangelsk.
 - b. Upper Dvina River sector with operations headquarters in Totma.

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- c. Upper Volga River section with operations headquarters in Puchezh.
 - d. Central section with operations headquarters in Arsamas.
 - e. Central Volga River section with operations headquarters in Kamenka near Saratov.
 - f. Stalingrad section with operations headquarters in Krasnoarmeiskoye.
 - g. Southern section with operations headquarters in Astrakhan.
36. Large-scale construction work for the establishment of permanent and auxiliary airfields and landing strips was under way in all sectors of the main PVO line in the summer of 1948.
37. The permanent airfields and some of the auxiliary airfields were built by the Soviet Army construction battalions. The majority of the auxiliary fields and all the landing strips, however, were built by the local population.
38. [redacted] the following fields were built in the summer of 1948:
- a. Northern sector: Two airfields in the area of Arkhangelsk, one on the Isle of Kegostrov, the other on the Isle of Selenets, 12 to 15 km south of Arkhangelsk.
 - b. One large airfield near Dvinskoy Bereznik, 300 km from Arkhangelsk on the upper course of the Northern Dvina River.
 - c. Upper Dvina River section: One permanent field in Velsk on the Vega River, a tributary of the Northern Dvina River (the field is on an island on the northern perimeter of Velsk).
 - d. One permanent and one auxiliary airfield were built in the area of Totma.
 - e. Upper Volga River section: One large airfield near Puchezh in the woods north of the town.

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In addition to these specifically mentioned fields many other fields were reportedly under construction in all the other sectors of the main PVO line.

39. The operations headquarters of the PVO main line is in Kazan. Its organizational set-up is the same as that of the advance line of the PVO. These headquarters are in close contact and in the event of war will have to coordinate their tactics.
40. The Ural air defense zone runs from Kirov to Chkalov in the southern Ural Mts. It is designed as the last line of defense against individual enemy aircraft which may have penetrated the other two lines of the PVO system. Like the two other PVO lines this air defense zone also represents a net of airfields suitable for occupation by fighter units. No strong air units are stationed in this zone in time of peace. Its airfields are to be occupied to capacity only in the event of mobilization of the Soviet Air Force.
41. Work on this air defense zone was not begun prior to 1948. For this reason source's information on this zone was meager. However, large-scale construction work also is under way there.
42. The Ural air defense zone is subdivided into the following five sectors:
 - a. Northern sector with operations headquarters in Kirov.
 - b. Kilmez sector with operations headquarters in Bolshoi Kilmez.
 - c. Kama sector with operations headquarters in Artash.
 - d. Irsk sector with operations headquarters in Abdulino, the capital of this raion.
 - e. Southern Ural sector with operations headquarters in Chkalov.The setting-up of these five air defense sectors is not definite and may have later modifications.
43. The operations headquarters of these five sectors were not yet fully organized; many of them consisted only of a construction battalion in charge of the construction of airfields in their regions.

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44. The Ural air defense zone is assigned to the operations headquarters of the PVO main line for the rear areas in Kazan.

The PVO Zone of the North

45. The operations headquarters of the air defense zone of the North is in Arkhangelsk and is assigned to the operations headquarters of the PVO main line.
46. This zone is subdivided into the following three sectors:
- a. White Sea sector
 - b. Novaya Zemlya sector
 - c. Pechora sector
47. It is known that airfields were being constructed in the summer of 1948 in Yekanya and Mezen (White Sea sector) and on the isles of Kolguyev, Vaigach and Novaya Zemlya (Novaya Zemlya sector). The field on the isle of Novaya Zemlya was built at the western tip of the straits of Matochkin Shar. No further details were available.

The Air and Atomic Defense of Cities Considered Probable Targets of Enemy Air Attacks

48. The preparations by the Supreme Command of the Soviet Armed Forces are based on the assumption that, in the event of war, the USA and Great Britain will launch a coordinated air attack against the major Soviet cities. It is believed possible that atom bombs will be used in this attack.
49. Since the Soviet military command does not see any possibility of protecting these towns it has proposed to the government that they be completely evacuated. This proposal was not only discussed by the authorized military and government agencies but, according to rumors circulating among PVO officers, was also checked and approved by Stalin himself.
50. The planned evacuation will affect the central cities themselves and their surroundings.
51. The following cities are known to be included in this evacuation plan:

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- a. Moscow and its environs in a perimeter of 100 km.
- b. Leningrad and its environs in a perimeter of 50 km.
- c. Kiev and its environs in a perimeter of 50 km.
- d. Kharkov and its environs in a perimeter of 50 km.
- e. Rostov and its environs in a perimeter of 50 km.
- f. Odessa and its environs in a perimeter of 50 km.

It is not known whether this list is complete.

52. Detailed evacuation plans are being worked out for each of the cities concerned. The evacuation is to be achieved in three 24-hour stages.

1st stage: Evacuation of the bulk of the population and the most important war materiel

2d stage: Evacuation of war materiel and the most important machinery of the war industry

3rd stage: Evacuation of the equipment of the plants of the war industry.

53. Plans are based on the possibilities that either no time will be available for the execution of the 3rd stage of evacuation or that even more than 24 hours will be available. The Soviet leadership holds the not entirely unjustified belief that if it could announce the complete evacuation of the most important Soviet cities immediately after the outbreak of the hostilities it might confuse the Anglo-American plans for their air warfare in the first phase of the war. In this case the Western Powers would be compelled to revise their plans for an air offensive against the Soviet Union, which would give a breathing spell to the Soviet military command, or their air attacks would be a futile blow against evacuated cities devoid of military and economic importance.

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54. Such an attack against the evacuated cities would give the Communist propaganda the possibility of denouncing the Americans as gangsters of the air and, which is even more important, the Soviet Government would be able to declare to the Soviet people that the Western Powers are waging war with the intention of destroying the Soviet Union and its people. It is obvious, according to this line of thinking, that the destruction of evacuated cities is carried out with a view to inflict irreparable material losses to the Soviet people.
55. All this has been considered by the Soviet Government and the military leadership, and they believe that under these circumstances they will succeed in mobilizing the last energies of the people for the war against the Western Powers.
56. Besides those towns which are scheduled for complete evacuation there are others which are to be evacuated 50 or 75 percent. For example it has been arranged that only the workers employed in the war industry will remain in Corki and Stalingrad.
57. Many district capitals and a number of towns in the main industrial areas of the European section of the USSR are earmarked for a 50 percent evacuation. The Administration for Air and Atomic Defense which is assigned to the Central Headquarters of the PVO is in charge of the preparations for the evacuation of towns.
58. The evacuation plans for the individual towns are being worked out by the PVO headquarters of these towns (MPVO). With regard to this work the local MPVO headquarters are assigned to the War Council for the Defense of Towns.
59. The following representatives have a vote on the War Council for the defense of a city:
 - a. The plenipotentiary of the Central Defense Committee or of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevist).
 - b. The secretary of the district committee of the All-Union C.P. (Bolshevist).
 - c. The secretary of the district committee of the All-Union C.P. (Bolshevist) for military affairs.

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- d. The chief of the district administration of the MVD.
 - e. The chief of the district administration of the MGB.
 - f. The military commissar of the district concerned.
 - g. The commandant of the town or the senior officer of the garrison.
 - h. The chief of the district Soviet.
60. Advisory functions will be exercised by this council:
- a. The secretary of the district committee for industry of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik).
 - b. The chief of the Economic Department of the MGB.
 - c. The chief of the district administration for militia.
 - d. The chief of the railroad district concerned.
61. In addition to these persons other important functionaries may also be given a voice on this council such as the manager of the most important industrial plants in the town, or, if the town is situated on a navigable river, the chief of the administration for shipping, etc. The organizational set-up of the war councils for the raion towns is along the same lines as that of the district towns.
62. In connection with the general war preparations of the Soviet Union and the mentioned plans for the air and atomic defense of the central Soviet towns, the fourth variation for the defense of Leningrad was worked out in 1948.
- a. Defense of the town against an attack from the sea.
 - b. Defense against an attack from land.
 - c. Defense against air attacks.
 - d. Air and atomic defense laying based on the complete evacuation of the town.

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63. The last was worked out on the following basis:

- a. Classification of the entire population according to specific categories.
- b. Fixing of distribution points outside the boundaries of the zone to be evacuated.
- c. Determination of the means of transportation and the routes for the evacuation of the population.
- d. Preparation of the evacuation order.
- e. Organization of a cordon around the evacuated zone.

64. The population has been divided into the following categories:

Category A: High party, Government, MVD and MGB functionaries.

Category B: (1a) Those subject to military service covered by mobilization orders.

(1b) Those subject to the draft holding certificates as irreplaceable workers.

Category B-2: 15 to 55-year-old fit for work.

(2a) In the plants of the war industry.

(2b) In other industrial plants and various administrative agencies.

Category 3: Children from 5 to 15.

Category 4: Invalids and inmates of hospitals and other persons unfit for work.

Category 5: Workers of the municipal utility plants and railroadmen.

Members of Category A will leave the city in their own cars by way of the road to Moscow. Destination unknown.

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Individuals of category (1a) will go by rail to Krasnogvardeisk where they will be given their mobilization orders.

Individuals of category (1b) will be taken to Mga where they will be screened. The specialists required for the war industry will be evacuated into the interior of the Soviet Union; the remainder will be drafted into the armed forces.

Individuals of category (2a) will be evacuated to Mga where they will be given further orders for their evacuation to the rear areas.

Individuals of category (2b) will be evacuated to Tosno where they will be screened by a registration staff.

Category 3. No details available.

Individuals of category 4 will be evacuated on barges and steamers and settled in the north-eastern area of the Leningrad district.

Individuals of category 5 will be the last to be evacuated in special trains left for them under steam.

All military units including MVD and Militia units will be evacuated in accordance with their own plans.

Work had just begun on this evacuation plan in the spring of 1943, and none of its details were definite. ✓

The AA Defense of the Military and Industrial Objects in the Interior of the Soviet Union

65. The organization of the AA defense for the individual important objects in the interior of the Soviet Union, mostly behind the main line of the PVO system, is part of the overall PVO plan. AA defense is the responsibility of the Administration for AA defense within the Central Headquarters of the PVO.
66. The PVO headquarters of the Military Districts are assigned to this Administration. In the rear area and localities with objects requiring

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an effective AA defense, the local (municipal or raion) headquarters of the PVO are concerned with the pertinent defense measures. The most interesting feature of the AA defense system is the fact that only military objects such as railroad bridges or military cantonments will be protected by regular AA troops in the event of war. Industrial objects will be defended by workers. The local PVO (MPVO) headquarters is to prepare, in time of peace, the AA defense of the individual industrial plants with the work force of the plants concerned, particularly those workers who will not be subject to the draft in the event of mobilization. Women and girls will also be trained in AA defense.

67. The civilian AA gun crews will not be trained with regular troop units but in military cells formed in the individual plants. These cells are headed by experienced AA officers of the reserve or by MPVO staffs. These cells often have their own guns.
68. Individuals who are trained in AA techniques in these cells learn to handle the AA guns and the theory of AA fire. From time to time the workers concerned must participate in firing practices with live ammunition.

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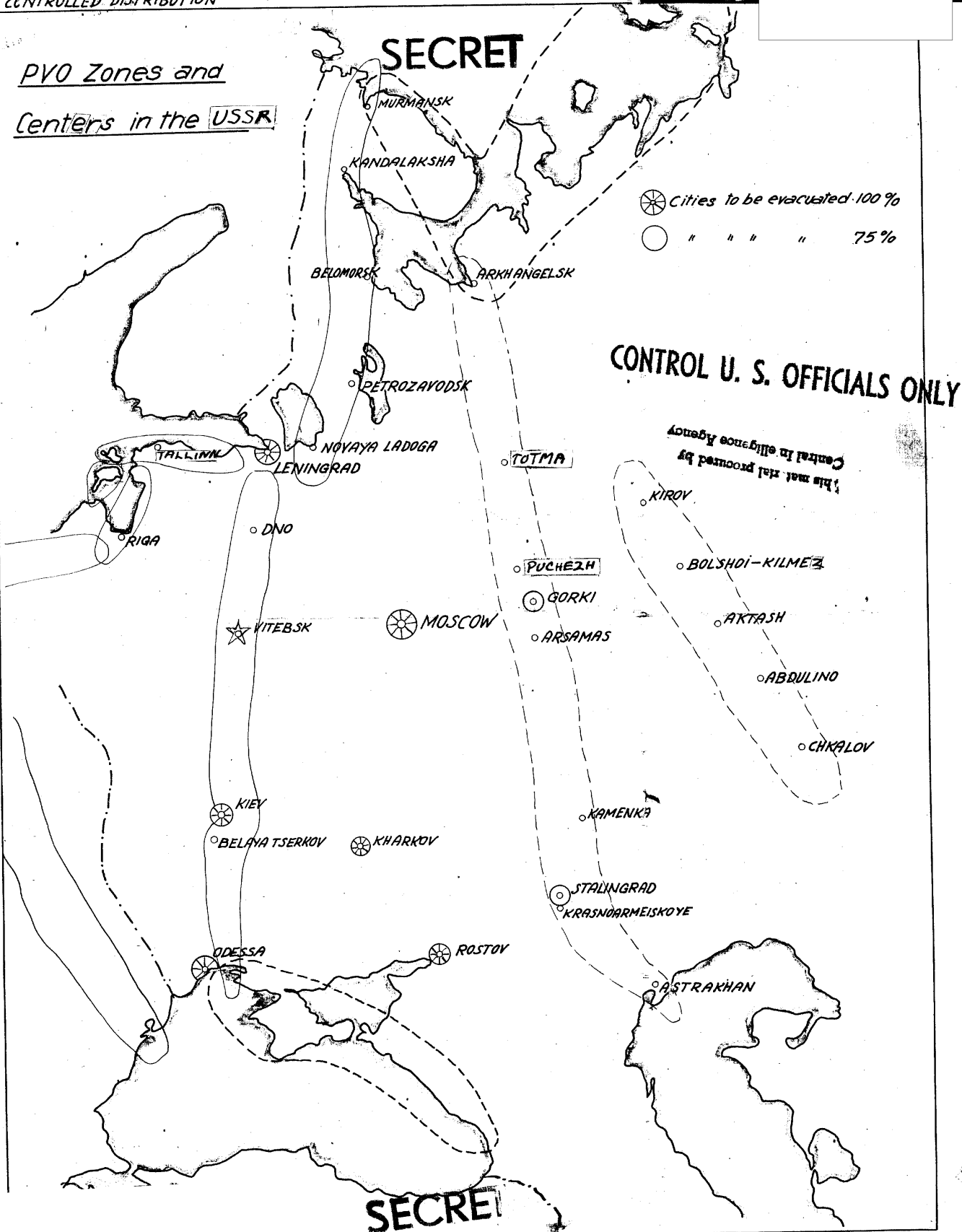
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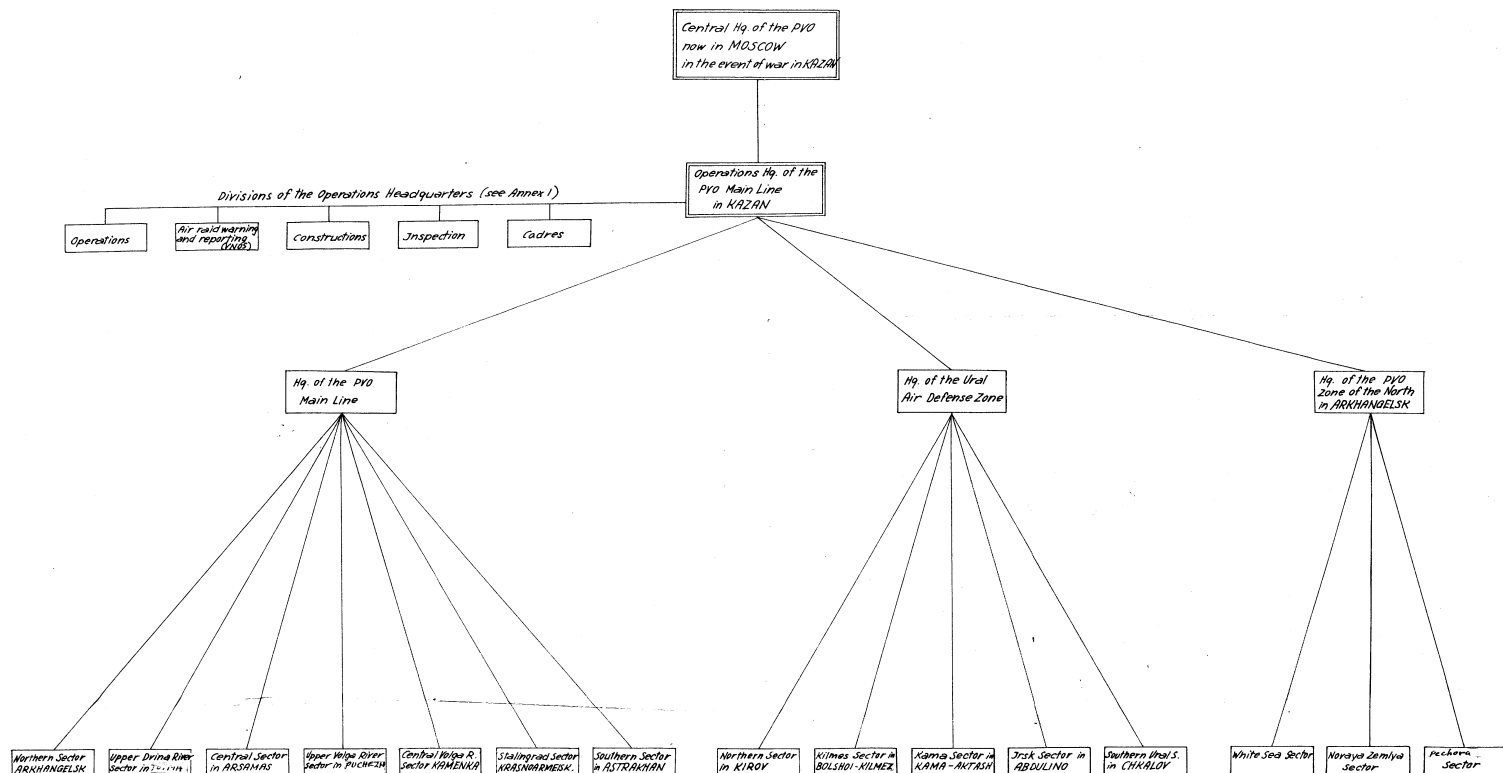
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- 4 Annexes:
1. The advance line of the PVO of the Western Sector
 2. Main line of the PVO Protecting the interior of the Soviet Union
 3. Air defense for major cities and AA defense for important objects in the interior of the Soviet Union
 4. Air Zones and Centers in the Soviet Union

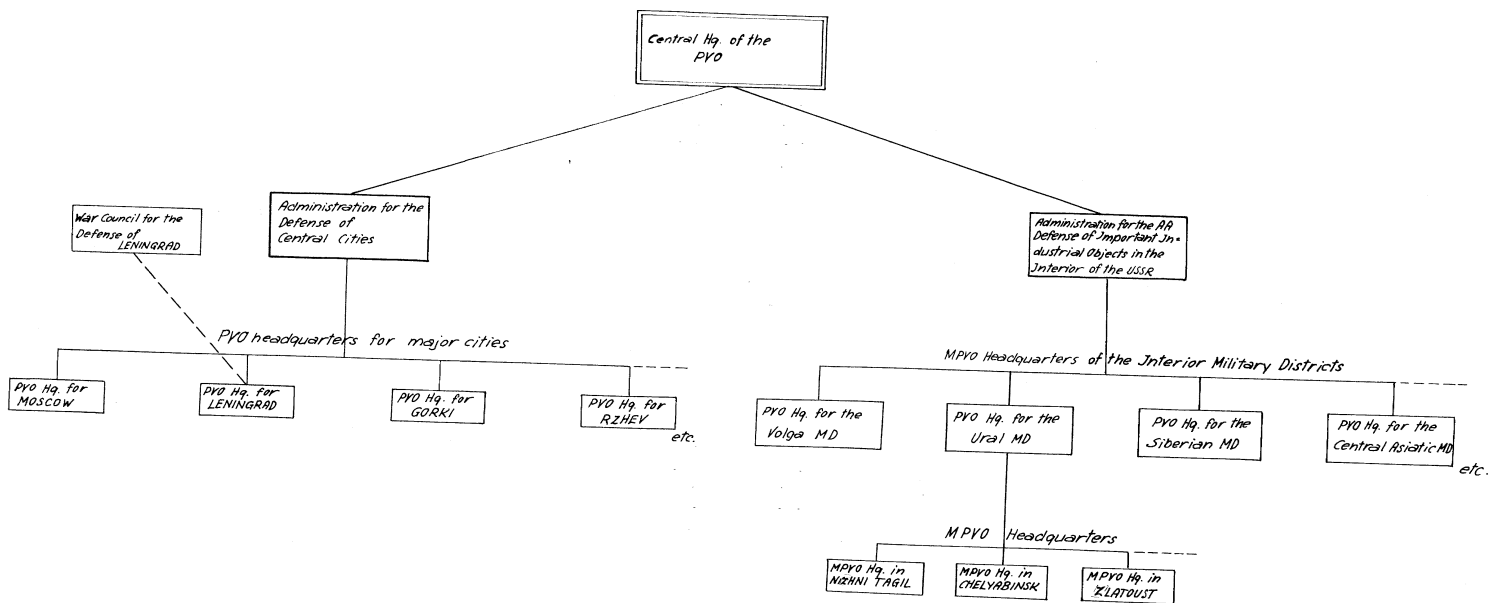
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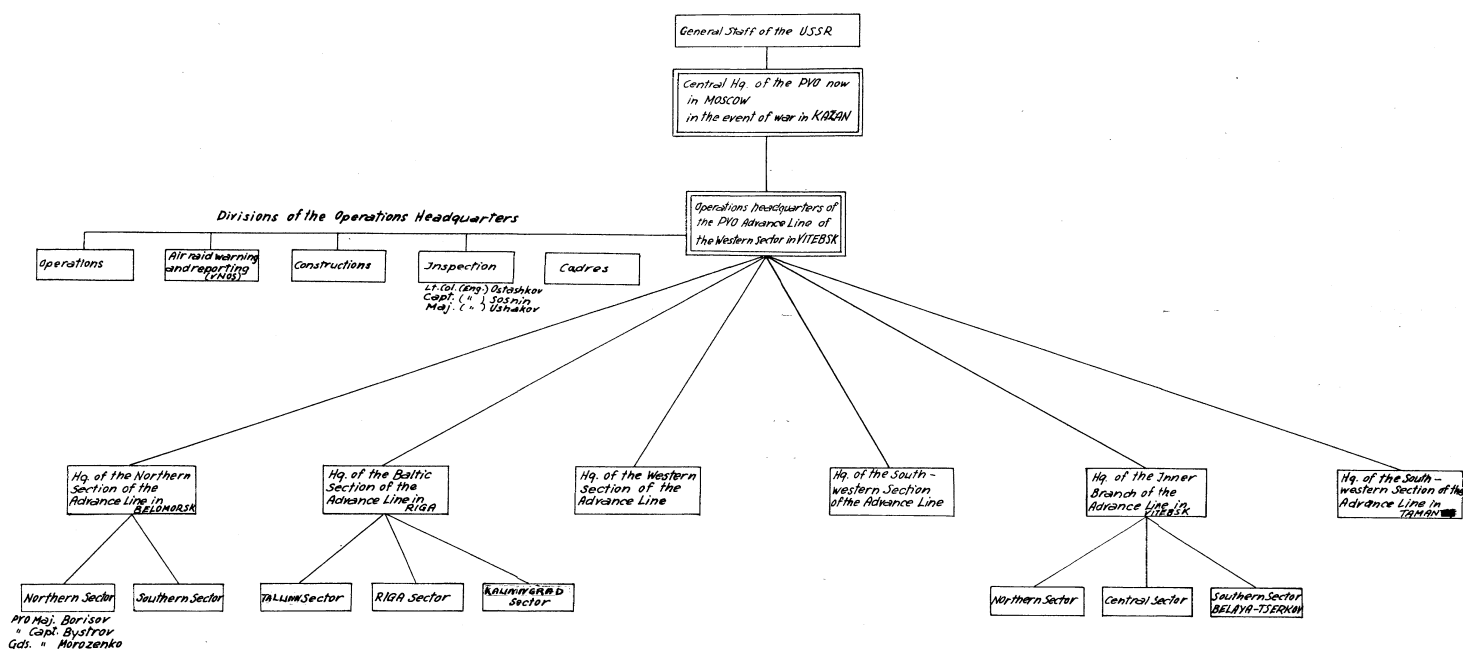
Organization of the PVO Main Line.



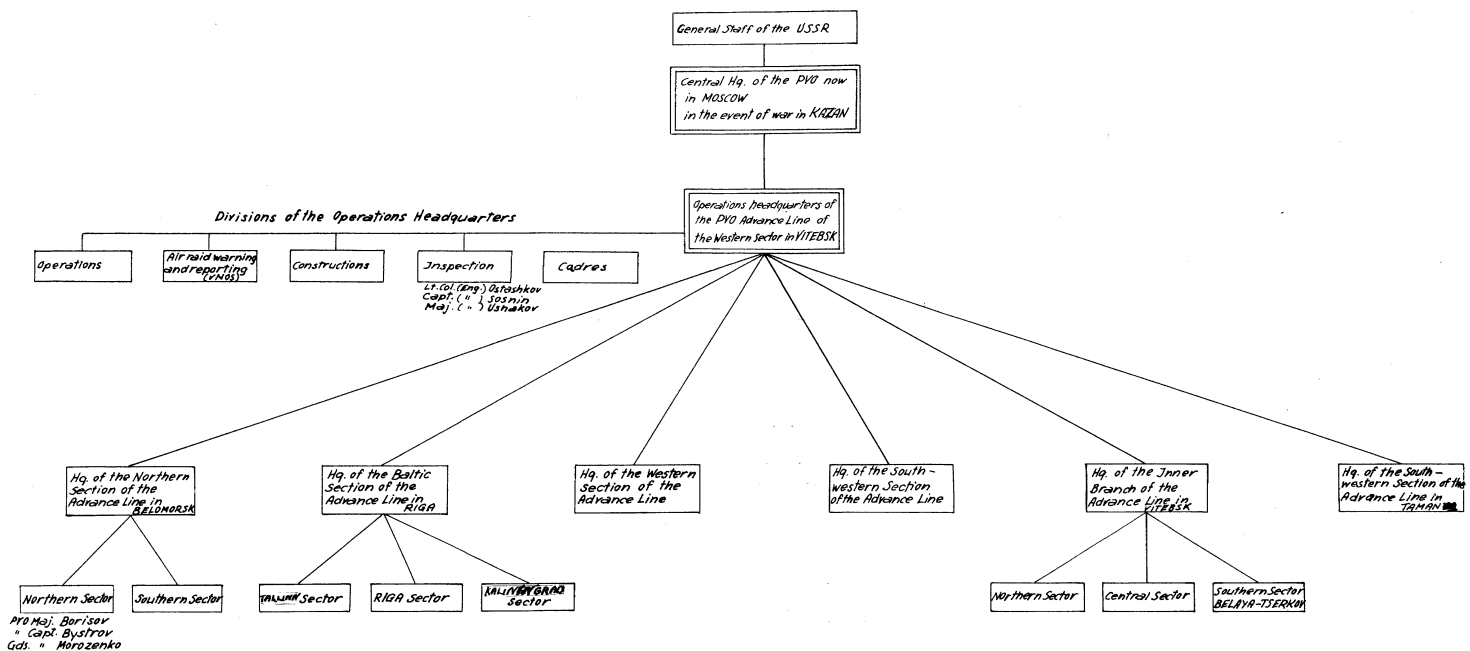
PVO of the Central Cities and Antiaircraft Defense System
in the Interior of the Soviet Union.



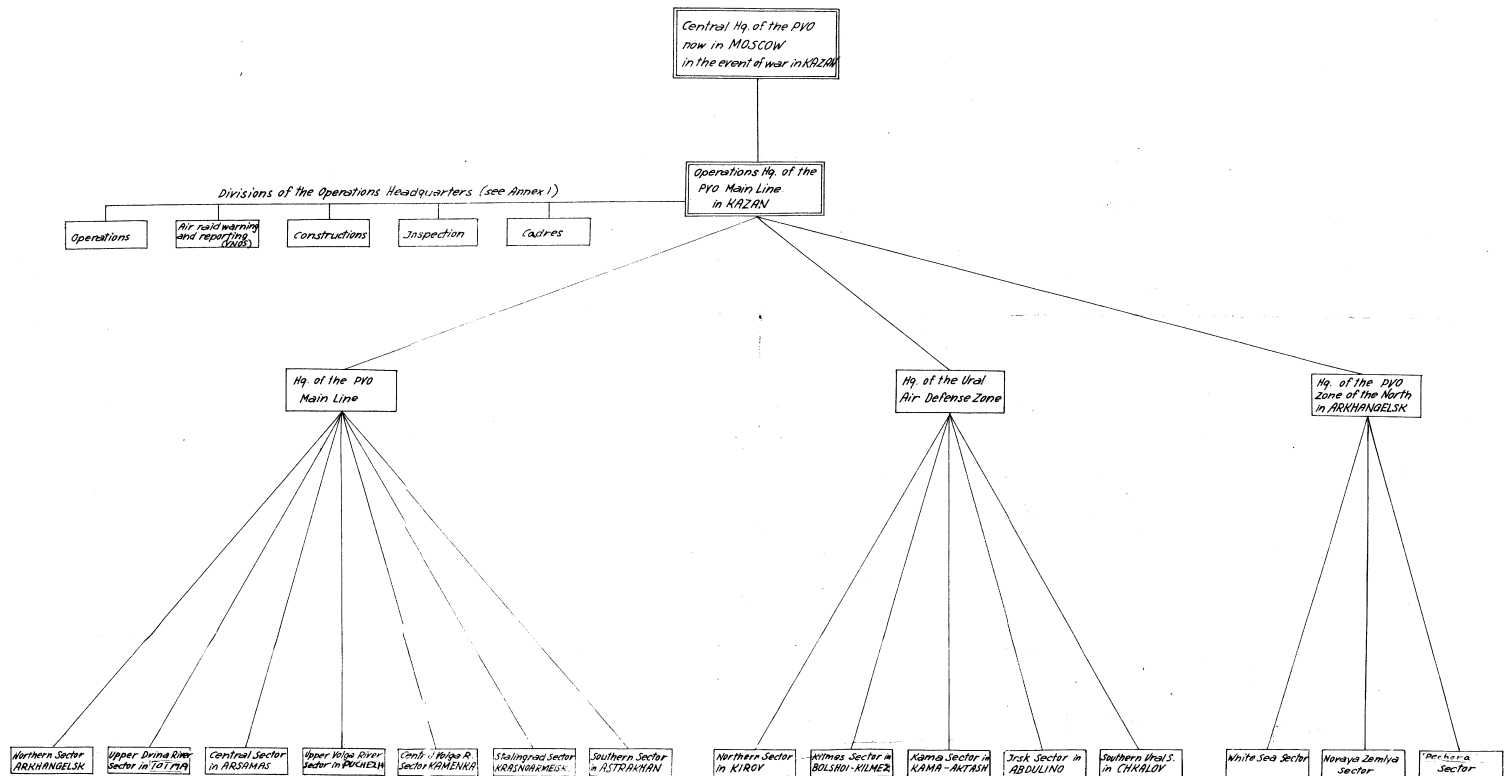
Organization of the PYD Advance Line of the Western Sector
of the Soviet Union.



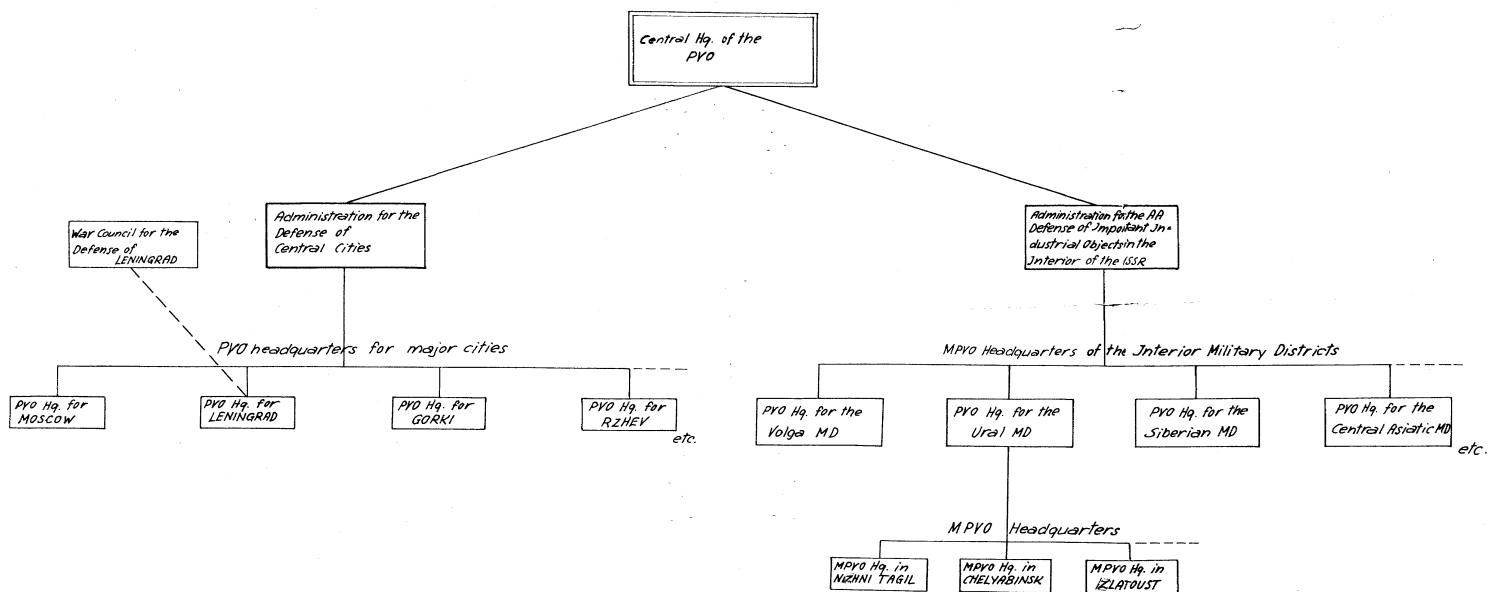
Organization of the PYD Advance Line of the Western Sector
of the Soviet Union.



Organization of the PVO Main Line.



PVO of the Central Cities and Antiaircraft Defense System
in the Interior of the Soviet Union.



PVO Zones and
Centers in the USSR

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